

# FOCI Newsletter

Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative

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## Outreach and Updates



### **Congratulations to accepted Farm Bill 10007 FY15 Projects!**

Have you looked over the recently released Farm Bill Section 10007 FY15 Spending Plan? You'll find funded projects directly involving forest pest outreach in the following states: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Vermont. Now is the time to start planning how your project will integrate with these upcoming outreach efforts – or if one of these is your project, how you will work with neighboring states and national efforts. Find the Farm Bill 10007 FY15 Project List [here](#) and if you are not sure who is the recipient of the funding on a given project, we suggest inquiring with the [State Plant Health Director](#) to find out the exact recipient organization.

### **What's your Arbor Day date?**

Looking for something other than Earth Day to use as a springboard for outreach each spring? National Arbor Day is always the last Friday in April (same as Earth Day in 2015, which is held the 24th of April each year), but individual states' Arbor Days vary greatly according to their planting season. So cold northern Alaska's is the 3rd Monday in May, while warm southern Alabama's is the last full week in February. Find the State Arbor Days nearest you, and get planning!

[View the Arbor Day map »](#)

### **Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week is in May**

Looking for just the right Governor's Proclamation draft, lifecycle video, or kid's coloring page? We've got you covered. Check out to the Emerald Ash Borer 2015 Tool Kit for a organized one-stop-shop of materials to inspire you.

[Discover the Tool Kit »](#)

### **Save the Date! Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases Annual Meeting**

This newsletter is one of several [Initiatives of the Continental Dialogue](#) and the annual meeting of the full Dialogue is now scheduled for November 16th and 17th 2015 in Denver Colorado. For more information, view the [2015 Meeting Page](#). Many thanks to the US Forest Service for providing continuing support of the 2015 meeting, and USDA APHIS for the support of this newsletter. Hope to see you in Denver!

Want to see what other states are doing? Visit [www.dontmovefirewood.org/resources](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/resources).

## Infestations and Regulations

[Comment now on Asian Longhorned Beetle Environmental Impact Statement](#)

The Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for

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A COLLEAGUE »**

**In The News**

04/02/15

the Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program was released to the public in March. Please consider reading the full [Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#) and submitting comments online at [Regulations.gov](#) before the deadline of April 27th, 2015.

### Get to Know your Fire Ants

An underappreciated pest group that can travel on firewood is the nebulous group of various Formicidae known to the public as “fire ants.” From the well known red imported fire ants to newer tawny and crazy ants, North America has no shortage of hated invasive biting ants. Ordinary firewood stored in direct contact with the soil can be considered a regulated item by fire ant quarantines under the “Any other article...” section, and any state with fire ants should consider incorporating these painful and well known pests into their firewood messaging. To learn more about red and black fire ants, try starting at [Extension.org](#) or for Tawny, Crazy, and other newer ants, try the [Texas A&M Urban Pest Ant Directory](#).

## Don't Move Firewood Campaign

### Now booking costumes for June, July, and August!

Do you have a public outreach event this summer that would benefit from an emerald ash borer or Asian longhorned beetle costume? We're all booked for April and May, but have plenty of openings in June, July and August. [Contact us](#) for details on our costume share program.

### Record breaking email drive!

Thank you to everyone that forwarded this newsletter to a colleague last month. With your help, we've boosted our readership to its highest levels ever- 564 active subscribers! Remember, you can always forward this to a friend at any time, or generally read about this newsletter on the [Firewood Outreach Professional News page](#).

04/02/15

**USDA Seeks the Public's Help to Stop Invasive, 'Hungry Pests'**

04/01/15

**Southern Pine Beetle found across state is destroying trees**

03/25/15

**Century-old walnuts coming down on Oregon State Hospital campus**

03/17/15

**APHIS Invites Public Comment on National Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

## Submit Your Story

This is the Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative newsletter, designed to share information about firewood and invasive forest pests. Do you have a story you want us to include in a future newsletter? Submit your story of 120 words or less.

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